



Holy Land Commissariat in Canada

1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9 CANADA

Tel. / Fax: 613-737-6972 • terresainte@bellnet.ca • www.commissariat.ca



Ottawa, February 10, 2016

Dear Father,

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year for **Good Friday, March 25, 2016**. During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The readings remind us of our special connection to the land where this great story unfolded. Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith.

Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges- many of which we hear about in the daily news. Many now find themselves victims of war and persecution. Many have been forced to leave their homes. Yet, it is important that Christians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land.

There are hopeful signs as well. The Catholic Church, and in particular the Franciscans, provides Christian formation and education, conducts parish ministry, offers housing and food for the poor and welcome pilgrims to the shrines in the Holy Land.

Since the time of St Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land.

A gift to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region. Thank you to participate in this movement of solidarity. *"He, who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness."* Rm 12, 8

You will find enclosed:

- An introduction to explain the Collection during the Good Friday Service.
- A thematic notice to be published in the parish leaflet of Palm Sunday, i.e. on March 20, 2016.
- Two posters about the Collection to be posted in your church, as of Palm Sunday.

We thank you for sending the papal collection proceeds to your bishop who, subsequently, will be forwarding to us the entire offering of your diocese. The offering of the catholic faithful of Canada is sent in full each year to the Holy Land.

With gratitude,

Father Gilles Bourdeau, OFM
Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada

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To be read at the time of the collection, March 25, 2016

Good Friday Collection

Today, Good Friday, there will be
a Pontifical collection for the Holy Land
In support of Christian communities,
the work of the Holy Land,
the upkeep of the Holy Sites and
the formation of future priests.

Let us give generously and show solidarity
To respond to the needs of the Church
In the land of Jesus.

Thank you.

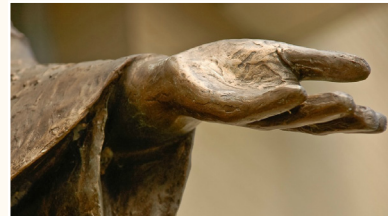
Resources

You can find a new resource
for the Jubilee of Mercy.

We offer a time of prayer:

HOLY PLACES: DOORS OF MERCY.

The pastoral tool focuses on events
of mercy in relation with the major
Basilicas of Holy Land.



Visit the web site:
www.commissariat.ca

To be published in the Parish Leaflet:

N.B.: To copy and paste the following text in your bulletin, go to this link: www.commissariat.ca

Holy Land Commissariat in Canada

Pontifical Collection of Good Friday on March 25, 2016 for the benefit of the Holy Land

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year on **Good Friday March 25, 2016**. Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives.

As a Pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection offers a direct link for parishioners to be witnesses of peace and to help protect the Holy Places. When you donate on Good Friday, you are supporting Christians in the Holy Land. *“He, who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness.”* Rm 12, 8

With gratitude,

Father Gilles Bourdeau, OFM

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